

**MMA Testimony on
Workplace Safety Advisory Rules Committee Recommendations
House Regulatory Reform Committee
March 14, 2012**

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Delaney Newberry and I am Director of Human Resource Policy for the Michigan Manufacturers Association. I am pleased to be here today to speak about my work together with Director Rob Nederhood, Director Steve Hilfinger, Liz Smalley and others in the Snyder Administration and my fellow committee members on the Workplace Safety Advisory Rules Committee to ensure that Michigan's regulatory environment is simple, fair, efficient and transparent and that we're presenting a conducive atmosphere for business growth and job creation.

For a little background on my organization and who we represent, MMA represents about 2,500 members that operate in the full spectrum of manufacturing industries, ranging from small manufacturers to some of the world's largest corporations. For each one of those companies, whether large or small, employee safety and health is of primary importance. Manufacturing continues to be the largest sector of our economy, directly employing over 500,000 Michigan residents.

For many years, MMA has worked to alert policymakers to the fact that when Michigan companies are faced with state-specific regulations that are more restrictive than their counterparts in other states, the cost of operating in Michigan exceeds that of our competitors. By eliminating unnecessarily burdensome rules and improving the efficiency of regulatory processes, we allow Michigan job-providers to be more competitive and to focus on what it is that they do best.

The Workplace Safety Advisory Rules Committee's recommendations also go a long way toward streamlining and shrinking the size of government and reducing costs by eliminating extraneous commissions that have technically have not had authority to approve administrative rules since 1996.

Unnecessary administrative rules can impose billions of dollars in costs on Michigan job providers, negatively affecting our state's competitiveness in the global economy. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work together with Governor Snyder and the Office of Regulatory Reinvention through the Workplace Safety Advisory Rules Committee to review each and every MIOSHA standard to identify duplicative, redundant and unnecessary regulations while preserving standards that provide cost-effective health and safety benefits to Michigan citizens. We are eager to move forward and plan to be an active partner in the next steps of implementation of the recommendations.

In closing, I'll just say that these efforts to reduce regulatory complexity and inefficiency and make Michigan a better place to do business are critical to our state's economic vitality. We look forward to working with you all and would be happy to take any questions. Thank you.